

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A light coupling assembly comprising:

a first member for being secured to a light source housing, said first member being formed of a heat conducting material;

a second member formed of a heat insulating material, said second member being securely connected to said first member such that at least a portion of said first member is at least partially surrounded by said second member; and

a light transmitting member extending within said first member and said second member for delivering light from a light source when the first member is positioned proximate the light source.

2. The light coupling assembly of claim 1 wherein said first member includes a portion for extending into the light source housing proximate the light source when the first member is secured to the light source housing.

3. The light coupling assembly of claim 2 wherein the first member includes a securing member for engaging a portion of the light source housing to hold the light coupling assembly relative to the light source housing during the operation of the light source.

4. The light coupling assembly of claim 1 wherein the first and second members each include an internal lumen for receiving a portion of the light transmitting member.

5. The light coupling assembly of claim 1 wherein said light transmitting member extends between a light receiving end of the first member and a point along said second member spaced from an end of the second member opposite the first member.

6. The light coupling assembly of claim 1 wherein said second member includes an internal recess for engaging and securely receiving a member secured to a light transmitting system.

7. The light coupling assembly of claim 1 wherein said light transmitting member is formed of a material with poor thermal conduction properties.

8. The light coupling assembly of claim 7 wherein said material with poor thermal conduction properties includes a ceramic or a glass.

9. The light coupling assembly of claim 10 wherein an external surface of said second member includes a plurality of grasping members.

10. An assembly for coupling a light source to a light transmitting system for illuminating a surgical site, comprising:

a first member having a first end for positioning proximate the light source, said first member being formed of a heat conducting material;

a second member formed of a heat insulating material, said second member receiving a portion of said first member and preventing heat carried by said received portion of said first member from being transferred through said second member during the operation of the light source; and

a light transmitting member extending within said first member and said second member for delivering light from the light source when the first member is positioned proximate the light source.

11. The assembly of claim 10 wherein said received portion of the first member further includes an internal lumen aligned with an internal lumen of the second member, each said internal lumen receiving a portion of said light transmitting member.

12. The assembly of claim 11 wherein said light transmitting member includes an elongated member formed of a light conducting material.

13. The assembly of claim 10 wherein the first member includes a first portion for positioning within a light source housing, said first portion having a securing member for engaging a portion of the light source housing to securely hold the assembly relative to the light source housing during the operation of the light source.

14. The assembly of claim 10 wherein an exterior portion of the second member includes a plurality of adjacent grasping members.

15. The assembly of claim 10 wherein said light transmitting member extends between a light receiving end of the first member and a point along said second member spaced from an end of the second member opposite the first member.

16. The assembly of claim 15 wherein said second member includes an internal recess for engaging and securely receiving a member secured to a light transmitting system.

17. The assembly of claim 15 wherein said light transmitting member is formed of a material with poor thermal conduction properties.

18. The assembly of claim 17 wherein said material with poor thermal conduction properties includes a ceramic or a glass.